

Gulfshore Assembly To Open Registration

Registration for the 1979 schedule at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, will be accepted after March 1 for groups in the state of Mississippi and after April 1 for out-of-state groups.

Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Gulfshore manager Frank Simmons reports that the assembly needs the following information for proper registration: type of accommodation desired, whether a family, individual or group, number of males and females, exact ages of children 12 and under, church's name, and amount of money enclosed.

Reservation deposit requirements, which apply to room and board, are \$15 per person two years old and older. Refunds of deposits will be made on Gulfshore's receipt of cancellation in writing. If cancellation is received 61 days or more before the conference, all the deposit will be refunded. Half of reservation deposit will be refunded with cancellation notice received 31-60 days ahead of conference, and none will be refunded 30 days or less prior to a conference.

All rates are per person, per day, and include room, linens, and meals.

(There is no reduction for meals missed.) Rates below are quoted for those age 13 and up. All units are air conditioned with private bath.

"A" Unit: two beds, two people, \$17.50 per person per day.

"B" Unit: There are four efficiency apartments. The minimum cost per day on each apartment is \$33. With four occupants, the cost is \$9 per person per day. (Does not include meals.)

"C" Unit: eight beds, 3-4 people, \$15.50 per person per day; eight beds, 5-8 people, \$13.50 per person per day.

Children age two through 12 are charged half the adult rate. (Parents must be in attendance.) Children under age two: \$.50 per day (all or part.)

The breakdown on total costs is as follows: breakfast is \$2. Lunch and dinner are \$2.75 each. "A" Unit rooms with two beds and two people are \$10.00 per person per day. "C" Unit with eight beds (four double bunks) and 3-4 people, will be \$8 per person per day.

"C" Unit with eight beds (four double bunks) and 5-8 people, will be \$6 per person per day. And efficiency apartments with four beds will be \$9 per person per day or \$33 minimum.

Gulfshore Summer Season

May 21-24	Senior Adult Convention (CT)
May 25-27	Missions Mini-lab (BRO/WMU/COMI)
May 28-June 1	I—Youth Conference
June 1-5	II—Youth Conference
June 5-9	III—Youth Conference
June 11-15	IV—Youth Conference
June 15-19	V—Youth Conference
June 19-23	VI—Youth Conference
June 23-27	VII—Youth Conference (MBCB with coordinators Larry Salter and Larry Garner)
June 28-July 2	Young Musicians Music Conference (CM)
July 2-5	Family Week (CAC)
July 6-7	Christian Action Commission (CAC)
July 9-11	Church Staff Conference (CAPM)
July 11-16	I—Youth Music Conference (CM)
July 16-21	II—Youth Music Conference (CM)
July 26-28	Church Music Leadership Retreat (CM)
July 30-August 1	I—Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
August 2-4	II—Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
August 6-8	III—Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
August 9-11	IV—Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
August 13-15	I—Church Training Leadership Conference (CT)
August 16-18	II—Church Training Leadership Conference (CT)
August 20-24	Senior Adult Retreat (CT)

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Major Baptist Issues

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1979

Evangelism-Bible Meeting Offers Theological Topics

A number of theological issues will be discussed during the statewide Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference, Feb. 12-14, at Meridian's First Baptist Church.

The special sessions of the conference will be led by Southern Baptist theologians and experts in biblical matters. Topics include perseverance of the saints, the trinity, doctrine of sin, the atonement, sanctification and regeneration, baptism, and election.

The sessions are a part of the first annual Evangelism-Bible Conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The conference is the result of combining what in the past were two meetings: the Bible Conference and the Evangelism Conference. The resultant combination has become a single conference, offering both inspiration and insightful study of biblical topics.

The sessions on "Election" will be led by James Riley, associate professor of history at Mississippi State University.

(Continued on page 2)

Clarke Names Acting President

The Clarke College Board of Trustees elected A. C. Johnson, director of development and alumni affairs, to serve as acting president of the college following the resignation of S. L. Harris. Johnson came to Clarke as instructor in history and government for the 1977-78 school year. He began his duties as director of development and alumni affairs on Aug. 1, 1978. He continues to teach a course in business law. Johnson holds the Juris Doctor degree from the University of Alabama and the master of arts degree from the University of Mississippi. He is a graduate of East Central Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

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Thursday, January 18, 1979

27 MSC Volunteers Ready To Go, But Lack Financing

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Twenty-seven overseas Mission Service Corps volunteers are ready to go, but lack financial backing, says coordinator Lewis I. Myers Jr.

Myers, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, made the statement as the board approved eight more volunteers at its January meeting. These bring to 39 the total assigned overseas under the new corps, which plans to put 5,000 volunteers to work beside missionaries for one or two year periods at home and abroad by 1982.

The board also gave conditional approval to 12 college-age young people pending further screening by Texas Baptists. Six of these 12 will be chosen to receive financial backing from the Texas Baptist student department. The others may then be considered under other sponsorship arrangements for a special evangelistic campaign in Brazil where Baptists requested 44 such young people to work with students.

At this point, Myers said, the Foreign Mission Board has more than 40 persons being screened. But requests for such personnel continue to come in from the mission fields faster than volunteers become available and sponsors can be found to support them. About 200 persons already have been requested and more requests arrive each month.

"We need a higher volume of both volunteers and sponsors," Myers said.

He said many people do not realize that even small contributions for each support will be welcomed. "We are able to put together smaller amounts — sometimes 20 to 30 contributions —

to support one person," he explained. Such contributions should be given through the local church and designated for "Mission Service Corps, Foreign Mission Board," Myers said.

Two of the eight volunteers approved Jan. 9 will serve in East Asia. J. Tommy Miller of Jacksonville, Fla., is already in Korea, to serve as a prison evangelist. Ernestine (Mrs.)

Ralph Hayes of Fort Worth, Texas, will serve as a medical secretary in Hong Kong.

In Southeast Asia, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leland Miller of Fresno, Calif., will serve as bookstore manager in Singapore. L. James von Mosch of White Salmon, Wash., and Velma Faye Zimmerman of Wilmington, Calif., plan to be married before they go to

Davao City, Philippines, to serve as business manager/assistant to the treasurer of the organization of missionaries there.

Assigned to be an accountant at the Baptist Union of Scotland is June Caplinger of Laurium, Mich. Glynn D. McCormick of Paducah, Ky., is already in Guatemala as a teacher at the inter-American school there.

Long-Range Planning Seminar Set In Mississippi

NASHVILLE — Steps in church long-range planning will highlight the Church Long-Range Planning Seminar in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 19-21, at the Baptist Building.

These three-day seminars, sponsored by the pastoral section of the board's church administration department, are designed for pastors, church staff members, and church long-range planning committee and church council members.

Seminar topics will include: Planning: the key to Effectiveness for Your Church; How to Help People Accept New Ideas; How to Determine God's Mission for Your Church; How to Develop a Long-Range Plan of Action; and How to Implement Long-Range Planning Through Annual Planning.

Truman Brown Jr., consultant in the church administration department, and Lawrence Klempnauer, minister of education-administration at Travis

Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, will be the guest seminar leaders. The Houston Seminar will be led by Brown and Jack Riddlehoffer, pastor of Pioneer Drive Church, Abilene, Texas, will be the guest seminar leaders for the Jackson seminar.

A \$35 registration fee which includes most planning materials, is payable in

advance. Registration for the Mississippi seminar should be mailed to Leon Emery, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205.

Participants are responsible for their own lodging. Upon confirmation of enrollment, a list of motels and hotels will be sent to each participant.

Love Blunts Disaster

thing for the tropical Brazilian weather.

Hulet discovered his passport was only partially burned and his wife's passport was intact — and he considers that a blessing from the Lord because of the document's importance.

Eleven-year-old Christina, however, was not so fortunate. The teddy bear she grew up with was left as ashes. "She kept hollering at us to get it," Mrs. Hulet related. "Clayton told the church that night about the teddy bear. One little girl there knew her parents were giving her a teddy bear. It was under their Christmas tree at home. That night she brought it to Christina."

"It has been a precious time, realizing more than ever God's purpose in our lives."

China Recognition

(Cont. from Page 1) would open diplomatic relations with communist China in January and give

notice to Taiwan that it will end its defense agreements within a year.

LeRoy B. Hogue, chairman of the Southern Baptist missionary organization in Taiwan, telephoned the board Dec. 18 to report that missionaries had "absolutely no unpleasant experiences" as the result of President Carter's announcement. He told area secretary George H. Hays that mission and convention leaders plan to issue a joint statement "that we expect to continue working together without any kind of break in relationships."

Southern Baptists have 107 missionaries assigned to Taiwan. Six of these are new missionaries scheduled to leave for Taiwan soon after the first of the year. Hogue told Hays that these new personnel schedule proceed with their plans to fly to Taiwan. He said missionaries have taken no special precautions "because there has been no need for it" in Taipei or other parts of the island.

Ev.-Bible Meet

(Cont. from Page 1)

sor of Christianity and philosophy, Houston Baptist University, Houston, Tex. Clyde T. Francisco, the John R. Sampey Professor of Old Testament interpretation, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will lead sessions on "Baptism."

Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., will lead sessions on "Sanctification and Regeneration." Sessions on "The Atonement" will be led by Fisher H. Humphreys, associate professor of theology, New Orleans Seminary.

George W. Harrison, professor of Old Testament, New Orleans Seminary, will speak on "The Doctrine of Sin." Russell Bush, assistant professor, philosophy of religion, Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., will speak on "The Trinity." And Donald F. Ackland, retired, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., will speak on "Perseverance of the Saints."

A number of other conference speakers and musicians will be on hand for this meeting. A complete program will be printed in next week's Baptist Record.

Following is a partial listing of motels in Meridian convenient to the First Baptist Church: Day's Inn, Tom Bailey Drive, 483-3812, single \$14.88, double \$18.88;

Holiday Inn Northeast, I-59 and I-20 at DeKalb exit, 485-5101, single \$23.10, double \$28.35; Holiday Inn South, Highway 45 South at 22nd Avenue, 693-4521, single \$23.10, double \$28.35;

Howard Johnson's Motel Lodge, I-20 and I-59 at U.S. 11-80, 483-8281, single \$25.20, double \$29.40; Ramada Inn, I-20 and I-59 at South Frontage Road, 693-3210, single \$19.95, double \$25.20; Travel Inn, 200 North Frontage Road, 693-3771, single \$14.18, double \$21.63.

baptist world alliance day february 4, 1979



Sermon: "A Vision of the World Family" Revelation 7:9-12

Sermon by: Nilson do Amaral Fanini, Brazilian Baptist Convention

The Baptist World Alliance gives me a vision of the size of the family of God. When I look at the BWA I see that our Brotherhood extends to every point of the compass and into every corner of the globe with followers of Jesus Christ.

The Baptist World Alliance makes me believe that it is possible to have union and harmony even in the midst of the apparent differences in today's world. For there is no nation or people great or small, no differences in size, no rich nor poor, we are all one in Christ Jesus. We are all part of the great family of the living God!

The Baptist World Alliance is a preview of what heaven will be like, as it is the church on a grander scale, when we all stand before Jesus as one in Him. But we need to work to bring heaven to earth. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The Baptist World Alliance challenges me to love a world lost and without Christ. The challenge is to cry with those who cry, to share with the humble and rejoice with the strong. I see, then, that I must work and pray towards the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth, through His church.

The Baptist World Alliance leads me to believe that through the Holy Spirit we can bring down the things that divide us in the world in which we live, to com-

municate the Love of God that unites hearts, and to provide a way to share the joys, frustrations, victories, and dreams with one another. We must support and cooperate with each other in meeting the needs of our brethren in evangelism and through religious education if we are to reach our world with the gospel.

To cooperate means uniting our forces and our resources, and our plans, all of us, together, now, toward the same goals and marching in the same direction.

It is told that a man bought a pair of trousers, but that they were much too long to be of any use. He arrived at his house and asked his wife to cut 8 centimeters off. She agreed to do it but forgot. After two or three days he then asked his mother-in-law to do it. She said that she would but she too forgot. One day the wife remembered and cut the pants off by 8 centimeters. Two days later the mother-in-law also remembered and cut another 8 centimeters off the pants. The following Sunday morning the man put on the trousers but, alas, they were much too short. It is easy to see that both women said "yes", both of them fulfilled their word and both worked well—but they did not cooperate.

Let us cooperate...

...the task is too important...

...defeat too costly!

"For we are laborers together with God." 1 Corinthians 3:9

Newsbriefs In The



World Of Religion

Youngstown, Ohio (RNS) — A World Council of Churches commission has awarded a grant of \$3,000 to the Ecumenical Coalition of the Mahoning Valley here. The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism made the gift to a coalition of more than 200 regional clergy who are attempting to reopen a steel factory and reemploy several thousand workers.

Los Angeles (RNS) — Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God has been placed in temporary receivership by the Los Angeles Superior Court on the basis of "pilfering" charges made by the California Attorney General's office against Armstrong and other Church leaders. The Worldwide Church of God, which was founded in 1931, has recently reported a membership of about 70,000.

Church Music Conference Goes To Carey

The second annual Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference has been set for Feb. 16-17 at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

The conference will feature William J. Reynolds, Hugh T. McElrath, and Wesley Forbus. Reynolds is secretary of the Sunday School Board's Church Music Department. McElrath is on the faculty of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. And Forbus is on the faculty of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

The program begins with registration at 1:30 p.m., on the 16th. Meetings will take place in Thomas Hall on the Carey campus.

Other features of the conference include a banquet, music by the Clarke College Choir, the Adult Choir of Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; the Carey College Chorale, and the Handbell Choir of Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

Wesley Forbus will conduct the conference membership in Mendelssohn's "Christus." and Edward Ludlow of Blue Mountain College will lead in organ meditation.

Group conferences are planned for the conference membership, for students, and college faculty members.

New officers will be elected. Donald Winters is president.

Send reservations with banquet and membership dues to Bill Bacon, First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 72, Clinton, Miss. 39056.

The banquet (optional) is \$6 per person. Regular membership dues are \$10; associate membership, \$5; student membership, \$3; and student group (10 or more from same state) \$2.

Where To Order Resources For Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Alcohol-Related Traffic Accidents Week Emphasis, January 22-28, 1979

Resources On Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety

A. ORDER FROM: Roy Thigpen, Field Representative, Governor's Highway Safety Program, State of Mississippi, 510 George St., Jackson, Miss. (Phone 354-6741)

Mississippi Implied Consent Act of 1971 — a pamphlet from Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Dept. of Public Safety.

The Bare Facts — The Drinking Driver (pamphlet)

MASEP (Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program) pamphlet

Getting the Drunks Off the Road! (pamphlet)

Alcohol Countermeasure Division (pamphlet)

Table Seven — Fine for the Offense of Driving While Under the Influence (photocopy material)

Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program — DWI School Curriculum Summary, (photocopy material)

What Drugs Might Do To Your Driving (photocopy)

Proposed Implied Consent Law Changes (photocopy)

Estimated Blood Alcohol Concentrations (table)

In Mississippi Drunk Driving Is Still Legal (pamphlet)

ABC's of Drinking and Driving — Facts About America No. 1 Safety Problem, (pamphlet)

Statistical Information on Alcohol Related Accidents from Mississippi Highway Patrol Report of 1977. (photocopy)

"DRUNK Driving Is Legal in Mississippi" by Roy Thigpen (photocopy)

B. ORDER FROM: Allstate Insurance Company, Public Affairs 1230 Raymond Road, Jackson, Miss. 39205 (373-7100)

The Drunk Drive May Kill You (pamphlet)

Alcohol and Alcoholism

A. ORDER FROM: Ms. Betty Fletcher, Alcohol-Drug Studies Jackson State University, Box 17057, Jackson, MS 39217 (968-2350)

Alcohol and Health — First Special Report to the U.S. Congress, Dec. 1971 (photocopy) and Miscellaneous Material on Alcoholism'

B. ORDER FROM: Mississippi State Board of Health Film Library P. O. Box 1700, Jackson, Miss. 39205 (354-6639)

Films on Alcohol (list of films)

C. ORDER FROM: Ms. Terry Sullivan, Public Information Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 619 Robert E. Lee Building, Jackson, MS 39201. (354-7301)

How to Help — What you can do to help your community help alcoholic people. (pamphlet)

Alcohol and Your Unborn Baby (pamphlet)

The New Alcoholics: Teenagers, by Jules Saltman Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 499 (pamphlet)

50 cents.

The Woman Alcoholic, by Vera Lindbeck, Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 529 (pamphlet) 50 cents

What Everyone Should Know About Alcoholism (pamphlet)

How to Know an Alcoholic, by Marty Mann (pamphlet)

D. ORDER FROM: Alcohol Service Center, Jackson Council on Alcoholism, Inc., 836 N. West St., Jackson, Miss., 39202 (353-8805)

The Church's Ministry to the Alcoholic (pamphlet)

The Modern Approach to Alcoholism (pamphlet)

How to Help The Alcoholic, by Pauline Cohen (pamphlet) Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 452, 50 cents.

Pastoral Counseling and the Alcoholic

Alcoholism — A Guide for the Clergy

Drugs and Drug Abuse

ORDER FROM: Mississippi State Board of Health Film Library P. O. Box 1700, Jackson, Miss., 39205. (354-6639)

Films on Drugs (a list of films)

ORDER FROM: Ms. Terry Sullivan, Public Information Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 619 Robert E. Lee Building, Jackson, Miss. 39201 (354-7031)

Drug Abuse Prevention — For Older Americans, National Institute on Drug Abuse (pamphlet)

Drug Abuse Prevention, National Institute on Drug Abuse (pamphlet)

Sanyati's 25th Anniversary Stirs Bittersweet Memories

By Mary Jane Welch

DALLAS (BP) — Christmas Day, the silver anniversary of Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Rhodesia, brought bittersweet memories for the Southern Baptist missionaries who have served there.

It brought memories of Mississippi Archie G. Dunaway Jr., who was killed there by guerrillas last June, and memories of other, happier days to missionary physician Wana Ann (Mrs. M. Giles Jr.) Fort, who has served there with her physician husband since the hospital's earliest days.

Neither the hospital nor their home was completed when the Forts, now on furlough in Dallas, arrived at Sanyati. While waiting for the hospital to be finished, they worked in a crude mud and pole building. There Mrs. Fort first took care of a premature Rhodesian baby. Fort performed difficult operative deliveries, often by lantern light with inadequate instruments.

And there Fort used medicine she had brought for her own child to treat

their orderly's son, who was severely ill with dysentery.

"As the child's mother and I knelt on the floor of that old clinic building, sponging his convulsing body to lower the temperature, praying together, our tears flowed down together," she says. "God's presence was felt, and God cemented a love between us which has lasted through these years."

That orderly later became the hospital's first African director of nursing.

Over the years, the Forts saw the hospital grow using funds from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. A clinic program reached into surrounding areas. New staffers and training for the old ones resulted in many new services — ophthalmology, dentistry, nutrition training, midwifery school, pharmacy.

But the hospital staff always stressed medical evangelism as their primary goal, says Mrs. Fort. "At first we held daily services under a tree near the hospital building or in the hall

when the weather was bad," she explains. A chapel was added later.

The outlook for Sanyati looked very bright when the Forts left on furlough in May 1978. Fort left his work clothes in the closet so he could get to them as soon as he got back. A month later they heard the news of Dunaway's death. Though a missionary physician and a missionary dentist still visit the hospital, it is now operated by the African staff on a limited basis.

"Someone said that missionaries are 'need-oriented' people, responding to the needs of hurting people in this world," says Mrs. Fort. "Thus we are hurting as we think about the present situation and our hearts yearn for the people we love in Rhodesia."

It is difficult to predict the future of the Sanyati hospital, but the Forts hope to return to the place where they've served for 25 years. "We hope, she says, "to spend the rest of our missionary career as part of this ministry."

Legislative Session Will Last 90 Days

Last week a statement concerning the 1979 Legislative session stated that the session will be only 45 days in length. This is in error. The session will last 90 days.

It is a short session, however, and legislative matters will move along at a faster pace than is the case in the regular session of 120 days. Legislative matters of interest are already being considered in committees and will be on the floor of the houses of the Legislature shortly, and some may be there already.

Time is of the essence in presenting viewpoints to legislators. — DM

Thursday, January 18, 1979

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Missions Task

On Short Pastorates

By John Alexander, Director

Stewardship Department

There is something basically wrong with the church that loses its pastor regularly every two or three years. While there are good and valid reasons why a pastor sometimes should move in a very few months, to the thoughtful person it is the long pastorate, like the long marriage, that produces a strong family and a strong church.

If some pulpits committees did a better job in prayerfully searching out a prospective pastor there would be much less need for such a rapid turnover in some churches. Few things can bring a church to a more complete standstill than the loss of a pastorate.

I really believe the short pastorate is rarely if ever the will of the Lord. I am convinced that often we give the Lord credit for doing things he has absolutely nothing to do with. The statement, "The Lord is leading me to do this or that," is used too carelessly by too many people relating to church decisions and actions.

In dealing with problems in the church at Corinth, Paul says, "For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace" (I Cor. 14:3).

Some churches clearly expect too much of a pastor. They expect him to be superhuman, never wrong, never speaking an offending word, and present everywhere at the same time. They forget God gave the pastor a task to handle a two-edged sword, to equip and train an army, to battle Satan, to glorify the Christ of the cross, and to steal every one of Satan's children he possibly can. They forget the way the world treated his Lord and Master the way it treated men like Stephen and the Apostle Paul.

While there is no place in the ministry for a lazy preacher, Paul says "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching" (I Tim. 5:17). If some of our problem churches that change pastors every year or so would spend more time praying for the pastor and honoring him instead of cutting him apart with criticism, we would have far fewer problem churches.

No pastor will ever be free from criticism. If we could learn to receive criticism without taking it as a personal affront, we could turn criticism to growth. If young pastors would learn to talk over church problems with fellow ministers who are wise by experience, there would be far fewer moves made. Happy is the younger pastor who has an older friend who can and will listen to his problems as he learns to be an effective pastor.

Missions, to a large measure, waits on stronger churches, and stronger churches wait on pastors who will invest their lives in one congregation!

Camp Garaywa Is Seeking Summer Staff For 1979

By Becky Briscoe, Consultant, WMU, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The temperatures have dropped very low and it is hard to force thoughts of summer camp to the surface. It is difficult to think about lifeguards and recreation directors in the cold of January. However, it is that time again — the time when some of the most important plans for summer camp are made. Almost at the top of the list is the search for dedicated, qualified, Christian young ladies to fill the staff positions at Camp Garaywa.

Woman's Missionary Union is dedicated to the cause of missions education. Designed to benefit the total personality, the summer camping program for Girls in Action and Acteens is an important phase of missions education.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

The Base Of Operations . . .

It All Begins With The Local Church

The base of operations of everything that is carried on in Southern Baptist life is the local church.

Make no mistake about that. It makes no difference what sort of denominational structure there is at any level, the church is still the beginning point and the source of strength of it all. It makes no difference what sort of para-church organization one may participate in or what sort of a smaller group gathering one may be a part of, the local church is still the power base for every meaningful endeavor.

Don't misunderstand. This is not to identify small group dynamics as a part of the local church with what is generally called a para-church operation that functions outside the local church. It is that all worthwhile religious accomplishments have the church as the base of operations.

A couple of weeks ago, Win Arn, the church growth expert, visited the Baptist Building in Jackson and conducted a workshop sort of meeting with the Baptist Building staff and a few others. An article on this page is a very brief summary of what he had to say during that period. It was interesting, enlightening, and practical.

Friends and Relatives

Among the interesting statements is the fact that most new members come into churches through a "web" of friends and relatives. That means, for one thing, that the larger we get the more our growth rate will slow down if we are bringing only our friends and relatives into the church. We must break out of this "web" if we are to accelerate growth to any great extent.

This would also mean that the visitation program does not produce much in the way of immediate results, but it continues to be highly significant. This is the best way for a new "web" to get started.

This piece, however, is not intended to deal with church growth. That matter is dealt with in Dr. Arn's article. This is to deal to some extent with another of his statements, and that is that the rate of church growth from the effect of crusades and/or television shows and such presentations is just about nil.

Put the two factors mentioned together and think about them. One, the local church is the base of operations for everything we try to do as Southern Baptists. Two, the amount of growth to this base of operations that comes from such things as television productions is almost nothing.

Yet one wonders how many millions of dollars are sent to organizations with television presentations from Southern Baptist families, and how many such families find their religious experiences from sitting around watching such productions.

A television show seldom, if ever, influences anyone to go out into the community and seek those who need a ministry. It hardly ever inspires anyone to give sacrificially to missions. Those who produce the show might claim that they are winning new converts to Christ; but if they are, the new converts are not joining churches to any great degree, and their witness is not accounting for much.

More than likely, many of the viewers are members of some church already and are using the program for some kind of a substitute for worship. Church history professor Martin Marty calls this "electronic church" effort a "do-it-yourself" religion. He declares that this type of thing is the church's greatest rival.

Massive Giving

One thing the electronic church ministers can do is inspire a massive giving program for themselves. Some-

time back the Wall Street Journal looked into this and came up with some startling figures. This Journal listed eight shows as the superstars of the electronic church denomination and presented the income for each. Jerry Falwell of the Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va., is said to take in about \$52 million annually. The income for Oral Roberts of Tulsa, Okla., is said to be about \$60 million each year. At about that same plateau is Herbert W. Armstrong of the Worldwide Church of God with an estimated \$65 million annually. Pat Robertson of the 700 Club is said to take in about \$30 million each year, and Jim Bakker of the PTL network expects about \$40 million. The Billy Graham Evangelism Association receives almost \$28 million per year not counting an education fund that recently came under criticism. The annual budget for Rex Hubbard is \$18 million per year, and for Robert Schuller it is \$11 million each year.

Most of us know Billy Graham's ministry, and we feel it is worthwhile. Perhaps the others are also. Graham's presentations, however, are not conducted on a regular basis and to a great extent on Sundays as are the others. Graham was listed with the others in the Wall Street Journal, however, and he also gets a great deal of money from church people.

Perhaps all are doing good things. But the total of the figures listed above is \$304 million.

That's a lot of money for eight people to deal with in an effort to provide a ministry; but the main problem is that none of us knows what the money is used for. There is no accounting for these funds.

An interesting aspect of the picture is the effect these "electronic churchoom" are having on the entire spectrum of religious telecasting. They are

not getting time on the established networks, which make religious programming available free in many cases to such organizations as our Radio and Television Commission. The electronic church folks are instead creating their own networks through the means of buying time on local stations or taking over entire cable operations. This is costing many millions of dollars, but they are able to raise the necessary money through the broadcasts themselves.

In physics classes we used to ponder the possibility of perpetual motion and concluded that it was not possible because of ever present friction. Perhaps the electronic church leaders have discovered the secret.

His Own Affair

What each individual does with his money in an effort to witness with it is his own affair. The local church and the associations, the state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention, however, are close to home doing the work of God as well as many, many dedicated people can make it happen. They account for every bit of the money spent, and we know it is used to bring men to Christ in our own neighborhoods, all over the nation, and around the world.

The local church is the power base of it all. It deserves all of the ministry, all of the support, and all of the financial consideration that its members can find it in their hearts to put into it.

Through the local church you are out on the streets in your own city witnessing to all who pass by; and you are joining your efforts in concert with millions of others to prayerfully fling your arms of love about an entire world and say, "Jesus loves you."

There is no better way to say to a crucified and risen Savior, "Thank you."

Guest Opinion . . .

Priceless Gifts You Can Give Your Church

By Win Arn

A growing number of people are finding their church to be a spiritual reservoir of renewal and strength, a reference that gives their lives focus, balance, direction, and hope. They look to their church as a place that provides spiritual and moral training for their children, a caring group of Christian friends, corporate worship experience, plus an opportunity for meaningful service.

It is also a widely held, and generally accurate, belief that practicing Christians are better able to cope with personal problems of life through a strong faith, nurtured through their church. Ask any involved and "alive" Christians what their church means to them and they will easily recite the benefits of being active members in their congregation.

During his 1960 inaugural address, John Kennedy struck a responsive chord in the nation's conscience when he declared, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." However, few Christians involved in their local church have seriously considered the religious paraphrase to that statement . . . "Ask not what your church can do for you, but ask what you can do for Christ and your church." Here are four important gifts you can give your church in appreciation for what Christ and your church have given to you.

1. Discover and use your Spiritual Gifts — The New Testament is clear in its teaching that . . . each of us has been given his gift, his due portion of Christ's bounty . . . "He gave gifts to men . . . to equip God's people for work in His service, to build up the Body of Christ" (Eph. 4:7-13, NEB). Paul also says, "I would not have you ignorant of spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 12:1), and Peter reiterates that every Christian has received a gift (1 Peter 4:10). To take seriously this biblical concept of each Christian as a unique, contributing member of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5), could set in motion a "spiritual revolution" in your church that would bring an outpouring of God's blessing through new growth and vitality.

As one who has served as a "mid-wife" in seeing scores of churches come alive in new growth and outreach, I know that when those in a congregation identify and apply their gifts, the whole body grows. But the opposite is also true, that a congregation which allows its members to be "unemployed" in using their gifts, will decline and eventually perish. What is true of the congregation is also true of the individual. A person who has found, and is using his unique gift is productive, fulfilled, and contributing to body growth and development. The individual not using his gift will be spiritually frustrated and seldom experience real personal growth and development.

As more and more individuals iden-

tify their gifts, have them confirmed by others in the congregation, and apply their uniqueness in service, the church is immeasurably enriched and strengthened.

2. Influence your "web" of friends and relatives — Imagine your church being a large water tank, from the bottom of which a one-inch pipe is always flowing.

People leave through this "pipe" in your church by death, by transferring out, and by re-version (falling away through indifference.) In some denominations the policy used to be to move ministers every year. Now the ministers stay . . . the people are moving! In the average American congregation 40% to 60% of the members have changed residence, and therefore churches, in the last 3 years. To replace and add to our water tank we must have a 2-inch pipe flowing in the top.

How do people come into a relationship with Christ and the church?

I have asked that question to over 8,000 people throughout America in the last 2 years. The results have been strikingly consistent:

4-6% of those surveyed indicated that they were "walk-ins." One Sunday they visited, stayed, and are now a part of that congregation. (Usually in their background there is some identification with the denomination of the church they walked into.)

6-8% listed the "minister" as the reason they are now in Christ and that church.

2-4% listed the church program as the major factor . . . perhaps a young single group, a recreation program, or a special interest group.

1-2% listed "visitation." Someone called and because of that they are now part of that fellowship.

3-6% indicated the Sunday School as the major reason.

.0001% listed some evangelistic crusade or television program.

70-90% listed the reason they came to Christ and their church as being friends or relatives.

The fact is clear . . . church growth is related to present members influencing their friends and relatives. Since Biblical days the church has grown most effectively through natural "webs" . . . people with some social or family ties to each other. Within this group of friends and relatives, a person's ability to influence is far greater than outside the "web."

But why influence one's friends and relatives for Christ and the church? We do it in obedience to Christ's command to "go and make disciples," and because of a loving concern for those close to us to know the joy and fullness of life in Christ and the Body. Influencing your friends and relatives for Christ is the second precious gift you can give your church.

3. Keep your circle open — In every church — regardless of size — visitors and new members must be assimilated into the congregation if they are to

reach out to others if those who are won are not integrated into the congregation. Give a third priceless gift to your church by keeping your circles open and encouraging other circles to be open to these new people.

4. Keep before you a vision of the possibilities — In a survey of pastors the question was asked, "What is your greatest desire for your church?" The answer that appeared more than any other was: "For the lay people to have a vision for growth and to be involved in the process."

Many congregations have inadvertently organized themselves on a "problem base." "Where will we find enough Sunday School teachers?" "How will we pay the bills?" "Can we keep the doors open another year?" The problems are endless, the solutions tedious, and the service often joyless.

A far stronger and more effective base is to organize the church and its components around vision and pos-

Red China Recognition

Dear Editor:

I just finished The Baptist Record that I received today. I can't put it down until I have read it completely. The last article I read was Recognition of Red China, The Political Effect on Missions.

I'm not a politician but I do have a little common sense. I'm not an electioneer for any special person for President. But I know we Southern Baptists helped to elect President Carter, (I did not vote for him).

If we look back at the things Mr. Carter has done it is as if he has been tossing the Christians of the world to the lions. First he tried to woo Cuba but not so much was done there. Second he pulled all U.S. troops out of South Korea. Now the North Korean Communists have almost doubled their forces near the border just waiting for the right time to take over.

Third the Panama Canal was turned over to Panamanian Communists. They too can bind their time.

And now, fourth, the recognition of Red China and the breaking of the treaty with Taiwan.

If Mr. Carter ever turns over Guantanamo Bay to Cuba, we as a nation, are doomed. We Southern Baptists as well as other denominational Christians will have our chance to stand up before a Communist and say, "I am a Christian." Can you do it even if it means death? Does that scare you? It does me, for I am only human; but I do know one thing: I know my God.

In Biblical days God led armies in battle for right. Vietnam was not in vain. We as a country were fighting communism as we did in South Korea. We just should have won it, that's all. The North Vietnamese have taken the south back over and now, with the help of China, are slowly taking over Cambodia. Then who will be next?



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

A Cold Weekend

I did something foolish recently; it boomeranged and hit me pretty sharply in the pocketbook. W. D. — who had advised me not to do what I did — was not one bit sympathetic.

News of an ice storm brought to my mind a January weekend 30 years ago, and the consequences of my failure to heed a wise warning.

I was a sophomore at Judson College at Marion in south Alabama. A classmate, Josie Hawkins, missionary kid from Argentina, was going home with me for the weekend. We had already bought our bus tickets, and someone had promised to work for us on Saturday morning in the library.

At breakfast time on Friday the sky was an ominous grey. Soon came rain that quickly turned to sleet and snow. By noon the big flakes were whirling thick and fast across the campus, and by mid-afternoon, when we were to leave, the ground was almost white.

As we stopped in the lobby to sign out, Miss Flossie Jones, the dean of women, told us that she'd been hearing on the radio that travelers ought to stay off the roads. She did not forbid us to go, but she very strongly advised us to stay there, and in fact begged us to do so.

In sophomore stubbornness we refused to listen. I was thrilled that an MK was going home with me and had been planning this for weeks. Besides, we had dates for Saturday night we didn't want to miss.

By the time we got to Birmingham the statue of Vulcan was looking down from its mountaintop onto a glistening white carpet. The Magic City's usual grime was covered with a mantle of ermine. Our delight in the snow turned to dismay, though, when we got to the station where we were to change buses. Almost all buses had stopped running. Still one was going to Sylacauga, a little nearer our destination. I urged, "Let's go that far. Maybe there will be a bus these people don't know about."

Snow was still swirling and darkness had fallen as the driver skilfully maneuvered his vehicle around the slippery mountain curves.

In Sylacauga they told us the same they had in Birmingham. Neither this bus nor any other in the vicinity would try to go farther that night.

I had no money, and Josie had brought only a little, not enough to pay for a hotel. We found a boarding house with a room for \$4 a night. Embarrassed, I borrowed \$2 from Josie.

Next morning buses were still going neither north nor south. Yet not ready to give up, we walked over to the dingy depot and sat shivering by the coal-burning heater, waiting for the train to Camp Hill. Train tickets had called for more money.

At Camp Hill we were still eight miles from Mama's and Daddy's farm, and they didn't have a telephone. I had counted on finding someone in town I knew, but the snow evidently had kept everybody home. Daddy by then had concluded we were not coming. In despair we hired the only taxi in town, and the driver charged \$8 for the trip.

My parents were shocked to see us arriving so late on Saturday afternoon. Our stay was extremely brief for we had to start back by noon on Sunday.

Daddy drove us 15 miles to Dadeville. Snow had stopped, but driving was still hazardous and we missed our bus connection in Birmingham. Luckily for us, another classmate, Dot Cook, lived in the city and we spent the night with her parents. Next morning by the time we got to Marion at 10 we had missed two classes.

Miss Jones scolded us because we had not called on Sunday night to say we were staying over, but when she heard our weekend woes she kindly refrained from saying, "I told you so."

Sometimes, though I hate to admit it, I'm wrong and the other person is right. I'm toying with the idea of making a new year's resolution: If somebody offers me advice, I'll weigh it, consider it, and if deep down I know it's wise, then I'll follow it.

Letters To The Editor

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We appreciate having this opinion, and we continue to invite those who are interested in sharing their thoughts to send letters to the editor. They must not be more than 400 words. Again, the editor is not a politician, but two points of correction seem to be in order. I understand that the President is having second thoughts about pulling U.S. troops out of South Korea. And it is Russia rather than China that is aiding the Vietnamese in the Cambodian affair. China has been friendly to the recent Cambodian government, which seems to have failed and which did overthrow another government in Cambodia a few years back.—Editor

I ask every one of you who reads this article (if it makes the Record), though it is quite some time before election year again, to pray and pray hard as to whom to vote for in the presidential election and in all elections. I pray we live to have that chance as individuals and as a nation.

Name withheld by request

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Relief For The Needy

Editor:

Names In The News



GRADY LOWERY of Tulsa, Okla. has been named director of the new recreation/aerobics center at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. The \$2 million facility is scheduled to open Jan. 15. Dedication ceremonies are set for Jan. 26 at 5 p.m. Lowery had been associated with the recreational program at the First Baptist Church of Baptist College and Southwestern.

Nationally known aerobics expert KENNETH COOPER of Dallas is a member of the seminary's Advisory Council and served as a consultant during planning stages of the center. He will speak at the dedication ceremonies.

The building itself contains an indoor jogging track, racquetball/handball courts, basketball courts, Nautilus exercise equipment, a junior Olympic pool, basketball court and classrooms. Outdoor facilities included in the center are tennis courts, jogging track and softball, football and soccer fields. Pictured are Lowery, Russell Dilday, the seminary president, and Jack Terry, dean of the seminary's School of Religious Education.

Comedian Bob Hope will be guest of honor and receive the Distinguished Communications Medal during the 10th Annual Abe Lincoln Awards program March 1. The awards, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will be held in Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Tex. The Abe Lincoln Awards, created by the Radio and Television Commission, honors broadcasters across the nation for their achievements in advancing the quality of life in America and helping the industry enrich its service to the public.

Perry Neal, former pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, and former associate minister of First, Biloxi, entered his fifth year in the ministry of full time evangelism Jan. 5. In his 22 years of ministry Neal has preached in over 225 revivals in 11 states. He received his A.B. degree from Samford University and Th.M. degree from New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor in Alabama and Mississippi before entering evangelism. He lives at 4418 Wares Ferry Road, Montgomery, Ala. 36109 (phone 205/279-8710 or 284-4244).

Conwell A. Anderson, president of Averett College for 13 years, has resigned, effective in August, following doctors' advice. Anderson's surprise resignation came just four weeks after he announced Averett will move to a new campus site. Doctors said Anderson, who suffered a heart attack in 1975 and had coronary bypass surgery in 1976, wasn't up to the monumental tasks of relocation and the resultant fund raising campaign. He was formerly president of Judson College, Marion, Ala.

Lincoln County's Associational Youth Rally on Jan. 27 will be led by Duann Kier, youth minister at Prentiss Church (Jeff-Davis). Activities will start at 7 p.m., and will include music and group sharing. Wellman Church, Brookhaven, will be host for the rally.

Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, licensed three young men to the gospel ministry, in a special service Sunday, Dec. 31. The three were Steven Morse, Thomas Michael Weeks, and Don Dent. The church also ordained a deacon — Lloyd Thornton. Julius Thompson is pastor.

Nancy Dunford, former William Carey College music faculty member, died in Concord, N.C., on Saturday, Jan. 6, according to a statement from the college public relations office. An assistant professor of piano and music theory from 1963 until 1973, Mrs. Dunford was the widow of Benjamin Dunford who preceded her in death in 1973.

Randol C. Lindsay (right), pastor of the Summerland, Taylorsville, was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Kosciusko, Jan. 7. L. Edward Gandy, pastor of First, Kosciusko, presented a Certificate of Ordination.

Spain Must Resolve Religious Tax Issue

MADRID, Spain (BP) — The nationwide referendum on the new constitution for Spain has been called a dramatic high point in Spain's "renaissance" by Southern Baptist missionaries, but some issues remain to be settled.

Andy (Mrs. Charles W.) Whitten, Southern Baptist missionary press representative, said the constitution provides for a parliamentary monarchy which gives freedom of religion, the press, enterprise and collective bargaining, and abolishes torture and the death penalty.

But the matter of "religious tax" is yet to be resolved. "There seems to be a leaning toward the system used in Germany," Mrs. Whitten said. Under this plan each citizen would declare what his religious beliefs are and be assessed a certain amount of ecclesiastical tax, to be collected by the government. The amount to be collected would be suggested by each church.

These taxes instead of voluntary gifts would support the churches.

The Evangelical Defense Committee has gone on record opposing this

system, which would "cut the nerve of Christian stewardship," according to Maximo Garcia Ruiz, president of the Spanish Baptist Union. Spanish Baptists are actively involved in this committee.

Eduardo Zulueta, director of ecclesiastical affairs in the Ministry of Justice, said the ideal is for each church to finance itself.

Most of the religious groups in Spain find no grounds to reject the constitution for moral or spiritual reasons, Mrs. Whitten said. For 38 years, Spain was considered a Catholic nation under the regime of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

During the last years of his regime and during the reign of King Juan Carlos, religious liberty has grown to allow non-Catholic churches to advertise meetings, meet in public places and build new buildings.

A number of Christian leaders in Spain have expressed their satisfaction over the new constitution, but say emphatically, "We will not be satisfied with less than complete separation of church and state," Mrs. Whitten reported.

Thursday, January 18, 1979

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Left to right are Earl Clark, pastor of New Hope Church; Mrs. Bonner; Kenneth Bullock, chairman of the Di-

Jones Mission Fellowship Commissions Maxine Bonner

The Direct Mission Fellowship in Pennsylvania. According to the pastor, Doug Boucher, through the ministry of the Columbia Chapel more than 200 people have been saved in the past two years.

Mrs. Bonner, formerly of the Shelton Church (Jones) has been a member of the New Hope Church about two years. She has been active in Woman's Missionary Union, teaching children in Sunday School, and other activities of the church. She plans to leave in the immediate future with intentions of serving at least one year.

The Columbia Chapel is a project of

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EUROPEAN YOUTH TOURS
& ADULT EUROPEAN BUS TOURS \$749
15 DAYS TO ITALY — AUSTRIA — GERMANY
SWITZERLAND & FRANCE
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Write to: REV. TOMMY WATSON
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MIAMI, FLA. 33157
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32 Mississippians Get Degrees At New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Thirty-two Mississippi students were among the 128 persons who received degrees and diplomas during the annual mid-year graduation exercises at New Orleans Seminary Dec. 20, 1978.

Paul Edward Robertson, a native of Jackson, received the Doctor of Theology degree. Robinson is pastor of the Park Forest Church, Baton Rouge, La. Ronnie Prevost, from Hazelhurst, received the Doctor of Education degree. Prevost is assistant professor of religion and religious education at Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.

The Doctor of Ministry degree was presented to seven Mississippi students, including Ken Marlon Anderson, of Philadelphia; who is pastor of the East Louisville Church, Louisville; Gary G. Berry, from Magee, who is pastor of the First Church, Taylorsville; Jimmy Dale Dobson, a native of Ellisville, and pastor of the Woodlawn Church, Rayville, La.; David R. Grant, a native of Plantersville, and pastor of the Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Hubert Olyn Hurt, a native of Louisville and a staff member of the Florida Baptist Convention; Billy Gordon Johnson, a native of Oveta and pastor of the Dixie Church, Hattiesburg; and Kenneth West, from Gunnison, and pastor of First Church, McLain.

The Master of Divinity degree was presented to Jerry Norman Barlow, from Petal; James Anthony Blanchard, from Gulfport; Harold Bruce Cappleman, from Ripley; Wade Chappell, from Carthage; Jimmy Ward-Dukes, from Jackson; Edgar Lee Graves, from Ripley; Stanley M. Henrichs, from Jackson; Davis Ramsey Odom, from Jackson; Ronald H. Mitchell, from Columbus; John M.

Roberts, from Jackson; Rodney K. Smith, from Gulfport; Danny M. Stringer, from Laurel; Bobby C. Waggoner, from Morton; and D. Jack West, from Florence.

The Master of Religious Education degree was presented to Doyle E. Cooper, from Picayune; George E. Goins, from Hattiesburg; Tony A. Hendrix, from Baldwin; Betty Lewis Ray, from Jackson; and James T. Wright, from Laurel.

Jerry W. Beatty, from New Albany, was one of three persons who received the Master of Church Music degree, and the only Mississippi student to earn that degree.

Three persons received the Diploma in Pastoral Ministry award. They were James Gibson, of Meridian; Raymond Bryant Moncrief, of Gautier; and Harold G. Wilson, from Prentiss.

Others who received Master of Divinity degrees and are serving in Mississippi but are not natives of this state, are: N. D. McClellan, pastor of Calvary, Smithdale; Donald Allen Morris, pastor of Damascus, Brookhaven; Phillip Newton, pastor of Mt. Zion, Smithdale; Jackie Shelton, pastor of Steep Hollow, Poplarville; Roy McKay, pastor of Union, Roxie; William Vail, pastor of Pine Grove, Picayune; Judson L. Hays, pastor of Ellard, Bruce; Albert Langley, pastor of Trinity, Biloxi; and David E. Frazier, pastor of Oak Grove, Prentiss.

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Before coming to Richmond, Scofield, a Charleston, Mo., native, worked with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention visual education department and was pastor of churches in North Carolina and Missouri.

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Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1978-Dec. 29, 1978

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All							Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All							Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All						
Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total			
ADAMS			BETHLEHEM	200.00	175.00	375.00	LEFLORE	347.00	508.86	855.86	BAY SPGS	19,172.66	6,778.65	25,951.31	MARILLA	71,097.34	542.00	71,439.3		
ADAMS ASSN	.00	.00	BEULAH	.00	.00	.00	PEASANT GRV	900.00	250.00	340.00	BEATHNY	1,017.30	1,501.00		ADAMS	71,101.89	28,048.04	99,149.9		
BETHEL	328.43	483.82	912.25	BLUFF SPGS	198,081	100.11	290.92	PROVIDENCE	1,151.31	784.83	2,540.14	CALVARY	1,017.30	1,501.00		BETHEL		.00	60,00	
BRIEL AVE	1,036.17	908.45	1,944.62	BLYLE CRK	898.20	675.00	1,571.20	CORINTH	2,618.73	3,466.16	6,084.89	CEDAR GRV	1,027.00	315.00	1,342.00	LEAKE		.00	60,00	
CALVARY	3,262.47	1,994.90	5,156.37	CHESTER	1,075.56	2,524.68	3,600.24	DECEDAR	150.00	.00	150.00	CEDELDER	1,027.00	5,171.00	6,200.00	LEAKE		.00	60,00	
CLIFF TEMPLE	6,529.03	4,037.76	12,567.39	CHOCAT ASSN	.00	.00	.00	EDON	3,279.07	1,292.00	5,171.00	FELLOWSHIP	1,027.00	5,171.00	6,200.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
CRAWFORD	2,470.00	1,179.00	3,649.00	CLEAN SPGS	401.60	1,245.89	1,647.49	ELD AIRE	2,381.17	2,384.54	7,770.71	FELLOWSHIP	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
CRAVEN	1,110.10	1,049.57	2,159.67	COED SPGS	401.60	1,245.89	1,647.49	BIG LEVEL	3,430.93	4,081.30	7,512.23	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
CRIMSON	22,045.05	10,921.31	32,972.34	COED SPGS	401.60	1,245.89	1,647.49	BIG RIDGE	675.75	169.16	844.91	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
CRIMSON	18,561.73	6,100.40	24,662.33	COED SPGS	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
HORN GANTON	14,399.46	4,214.49	18,612.95	CROSS ROADS	346.92	148.65	495.57	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
PARKWAY	33,454.60	9,988.85	42,143.45	EBENEZER	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
SPRINGFIELD	2,301.98	1,812.37	3,714.35	FELLOWSHIP	1,487.93	1,131.48	2,619.41	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
STANTON	2,683.90	941.77	3,252.67	FENTRESS	480.00	599.00	1,080.00	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
WASHINGTON	11,154.23	4,137.03	15,791.26	FRENCH CAMP	1,069.55	262.00	1,331.55	BOONE	1,071.95	171.55	179.55	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
	121,930.03	47,134.00	169,064.03	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
ALCORN				HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
ALCORN	.00			HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
ANTIOCH NO 2	4,999.80	1,570.71	6,570.51	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
BETHEL	1,916.53	810.19	2,526.72	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
BRUSH CRK	50.00	.00	50.00	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
COMMUNITY	7,710.63	2,611.51	10,323.14	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
CORINTH TATE	17,348.67	9,123.52	26,472.19	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
COUNTY LINE	870.00	2,023.85	2,893.85	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
DANVILLE	1,992.33	2,065.99	4,058.32	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
E CORINTH	7,296.92	2,933.47	10,230.37	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
FRC HATCHET	22,045.05	10,921.31	32,972.34	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
GARRET	18,561.73	6,100.40	24,662.33	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
HORN GANTON	14,399.46	4,214.49	18,612.95	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
IMMANUEL	18,561.73	6,100.40	24,662.33	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	14,399.46	4,214.49	18,612.95	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	12,121.46	185.00	12,306.46	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	12,121.46	185.00	12,306.46	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	12,121.46	185.00	12,306.46	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	12,121.46	185.00	12,306.46	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445.00	5,660.00	FAIR RIDGE		.00	60,00	
NEW HOPE	12,121.46	185.00	12,306.46	HEARTLAND	.00	.00	.00	BOONE	300.00	115.00	415.00	GROUNDOOR	1,216.00	4,445						

Assn. Min. Designated, WMU & All							Assn. Min. Designated, WMU & All							Assn. Min. Designated, WMU & All							Assn. Min. Designated, WMU & All						
Co-op			Other		Total		Co-op			Other		Total		Co-op			Other		Total		Co-op			Other		Total	
SPRING COTTAGE	941.00	260.00	1,101.00	1,101.00	1,101.00	1,101.00	SARAKALAR	1,728.00	2,859.00	4,287.00	RENA LARA	1,581.48	1,404.04	3,951.52	LORENA	995.19	743.30	1,338.49	CENTERVILLE	1,227.78	1,748.50	1,748.50	1,748.50	1,748.50	1,748.50	1,748.50	
WHITE BLUFF	82.13	50.00	132.13	132.13	132.13	132.13	VERNON	140.00	0.00	140.00	RIVERSIDE	1,163.13	2,352.00	3,515.13	NAT CARMEL	96.21	85.31	181.52	CRYSTAL SPRGS	3,376.61	3,305.30	7,081.91	7,081.91	7,081.91	7,081.91	7,081.91	
MARSHALL	271.00	60.00	331.00	331.00	331.00	331.00	ONTARIO	2,195.10	985.50	3,180.60	ONTARIO	1,104.00	1,404.04	3,515.12	NAT PLEASANT	300.84	0.00	300.84	DINAN	1,003.24	2,466.27	2,466.27	2,466.27	2,466.27	2,466.27	2,466.27	
BETHANY	3,782.50	3,594.00	7,376.50	7,376.50	7,376.50	7,376.50	BETHESDA	1,391.72	1,834.12	3,225.84	BRANCH	2,039.80	1,255.16	3,294.95	ROCKY HILL	452.85	46.00	498.85	KNOX	986.00	1,086.26	2,172.27	2,172.27	2,172.27	2,172.27	2,172.27	
SYLVIA	2,400.71	1,273.00	4,673.71	4,673.71	4,673.71	4,673.71	CALVARY	1,208.01	2,950.45	4,156.46	CLIFTON	1,479.04	1,234.88	2,713.92	ROSE HILL	0.00	0.00	0.00	ENON	4,975.05	7,309.31	10,399.36	10,399.36	10,399.36	10,399.36	10,399.36	
CAREY CPL	90.00	55.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	CENTER GRV	720.00	562.00	1,266.00	COOPERVILLE	1,450.84	452.10	1,875.96	SALEM	0.00	0.00	0.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,710.08	6,070.08	6,070.08	6,070.08	6,070.08	6,070.08	
CLEAR CRK	1,950.23	846.50	2,822.73	2,822.73	2,822.73	2,822.73	DOUGLASS	1,655.00	316.42	1,941.02	E FOREST	1,432.42	2,360.24	3,792.66	SHADY GRV	0.00	0.00	0.00	HAGES CRK	4,260.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
CORBINVILLE	1,551.70	559.47	2,111.17	2,111.17	2,111.17	2,111.17	EMANUEL	1,000.00	305.00	1,305.00	E MORTON	651.00	1,091.23	1,091.23	NEW HOME	1,300.65	975.39	2,006.04	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
FBC HOLLY SPG	31,446.92	15,122.36	47,172.26	47,172.26	47,172.26	47,172.26	FBC STARKVILLE	95,944.93	14,954.53	110,919.46	EPHESUS	1,159.00	1,557.31	2,712.31	NEW SARDIS	971.45	975.39	1,906.84	HAGES CRK	4,260.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
FBC POTTS CAMP	4,924.57	2,117.00	7,041.00	7,041.00	7,041.00	7,041.00	FRIENDSHIP	300.00	0.00	300.00	FBC UNION	7,925.64	1,285.01	11,116.65	OAK GRV	1,730.02	725.75	2,441.77	HAGES CRK	4,260.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
FRIDAY	14.23	35.96	49.77	49.77	49.77	49.77	HEADON VIEW	1,200.00	98.25	1,298.25	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HARSHALL ASSN	.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	HEDGWY	1,200.00	98.25	1,298.25	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HIT HORIAN	351.21	812.63	1,163.84	1,163.84	1,163.84	1,163.84	HOGAN CPL	3,072.67	2,488.75	5,561.42	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HIT PLEASANT	2,467.51	555.00	3,022.50	3,022.50	3,022.50	3,022.50	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HORN HARRY	1,621.25	90.00	1,711.25	1,711.25	1,711.25	1,711.25	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HORN HORN	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	
HYATT	1,703.74	819.73	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	2,603.07	HORN	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC UNION	1,200.00	300.00	1,500.00	PEASANT HILL	25.00	0.00	25.00	LEXIE	4,360.00	1,519.75	5,779.75	5,779.75	5,779.			

156.00	LYON OAKHURST	13,830.14	4,592.22	16,622.36	LEAF RIVER LIBERTY	1,218
71.00		29,519.74	20,301.09	49,820.83		634

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — December giving boosted contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program to

\$14,538,766, or 11.9 percent ahead of the first three months of 1977-78.

increase over the same month last year.

Monthly increases must average 5 percent to meet the \$64 million operating budget and capital needs of SBC agencies. The total 1978 budget of \$75 million reflects an additional \$11 million goal for Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds and requires a 30.6 percent increase over last year's receipts. (Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to proclaim Christ to the world in this century.) Designated contributions, running

European Gas Over

Evergreen Church, (Winston County), exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by \$469. The goal

Christmas Offering by \$460. The goal was \$650.

At the close of service on Dec. 24 the total offering was \$1110. This was a record for Evergreen. Albert McMullen, pastor, said, "It was a real joy to see the people respond so faithfully and cheerfully."

WISELY

Only you can determine the amount of electricity you use. Electric power is a valuable resource, so conserve it whenever possible. A few times.

Make sure your home is properly insulated . . . keep thermostat at 68 degrees in winter, 78 degrees in summer . . . conserve hot water and use appliances wisely. For a free folder on how to save, contact

your nearest IMPERIAL OPTICAL.

MIDDLE BONTH
WILDLIFE SYSTEM

Helping Small Businesses

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- ACROSS:
 - AMT STA SER
 - RAH EAVE LOVE
 - ANE ARID OHAD
 - MY BELOVED SON
 - LASS NET
 - MEAT TIL LAS
 - ARM SPICE ART
 - TEE AID ASKS
 - ANS BAIT
 - SONS OF ISRAEL
 - TORS NERI DAO
- DOWN:
 - RAH EAVE LOVE
 - ANE ARID OHAD
 - MY BELOVED SON
 - LASS NET
 - MEAT TIL LAS
 - ARM SPICE ART
 - TEE AID ASKS
 - ANS BAIT
 - SONS OF ISRAEL
 - TORS NERI DAO

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves"

(Luke 10:8).

Hospital Evangelism Touches Patients, Families, Villages

BANGALORE, India (BP) — The evangelism ministry of the Baptist hospital in Bangalore has produced more than 600 professions of faith in one year.

Led by Truman S. Smith, a special-

Staff Changes

Franklin Denham of Knoxville, Tenn., has accepted a call to become minister of music at Highland Church, Meridian. Jackie Hamilton is the pastor.

Albert H. McMullen assumed the pastorate of the Evergreen Church (Winston) on Oct. 9, 1978. He moved from the pastorate of Coldwater Church (Neshoba).

Bob Rogers, a junior ministerial student at Mississippi College, has accepted the call of Parkway Church, Kosciusko, as youth director. He served previously as summer youth director at Enterprise Church, Enterprise. His parents are Rev. and Mrs. Robert H. Rogers of Petal.

Eddie Bryant has accepted the pastorate of Tuckers Crossing Church in Jones County and has moved there from the New Hope Church in Smith County where he served ten years. Bryant is graduate of Jones Junior College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He is a native of Raleigh.

He is married to the former Mary Ann Myrick of Pleasant Home, Jones County, a graduate of Jones Junior College, William Carey, and New Orleans Seminary. Mrs. Bryant was formerly a student missionary in California and was a missionary journeyman in Zambia 1967-69. The Bryants have two daughters, Charla and Sheree.

Lewis Oswalt has begun work as minister of music and youth at First, Water Valley, coming from a similar position at First Church, Many, La., where he had served since 1976. A native of Hammond, La., he is a graduate of Mississippi College and has done graduate work at University of Southern Mississippi. He is married to the former Lisa Hudson of Calhoun City.

Oswalt

assignment chaplain, the ministry reached past the hospital into the villages through follow-up visits with many patients. Smith, family consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, spent the year heading a team of local pastors who work in chaplaincy and follow-up ministries. His wife, Gwen, was director of nursing.

Smith reported that 86 persons were baptized during the year he was there and more than 100 requested baptism. Because becoming a Christian is such a major social and religious change, many times there is a long wait between profession of faith and baptism, according to Smith. Total membership in Southern Baptist related churches is about 500.

Other methods of witness in Bangalore include a Bible Way correspondence course and the English-language outreach library.

Devotional

If I Had Only One Sermon To Preach

By Judd Allen, Consultant, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Some years ago a series of books was published with the title, "If I Had Only One Sermon to Preach." Outstanding preachers contributed a single message which they felt contained the nucleus or heart of the Gospel. I have often wondered what I would preach should I be restricted to a single message.

After intense reflection upon messages from pulpits, radio and television, and from the printed page, I discovered that many descriptive terms are ascribed to Jesus. These descriptions are as varied as the personalities making the presentations, due mainly to the specific objective of each message. However, in the majority of these messages, I detected no sense of real urgency nor an understanding that the message being delivered may be the only source of enlightenment to a troubled individual.

Then one day with a random turning of my radio dial, I heard the heart of the Gospel dramatically presented. Upon hearing a simple biblical quotation I definitely knew what my sermon would be.

It was a quotation of Matthew 12:20 which is from Isaiah 42:3 which pictures Jesus in the same strain as his own great words in Matthew 11:28-30 where he says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I shall give you rest." Many years ago Isaiah had predicted of the Savior, "A bruised reed shall he not break and the smoking flax shall be not quenched." If I had only one sermon to preach it would present a Savior who is gentle to sinners.

Again in Isaiah 40:11 a most beautiful picture of the Savior is drawn. "He shall feed his flocks like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them to his bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Jesus is gentle to those who seek him, as demonstrated by sinners and publicans who received him, the Samaritan woman, the woman taken in adultery, and all who came to him in faith-repentance.

The righteousness of God demands God's wrath be upon those who reject him. But those who honestly seek forgiveness and salvation have no need for fear. For perfect love casteth out fear. The gentleness of Jesus and his care for a lost world is the world's greatest message.

Allen

Texas Extends Landes Time As Director

DALLAS (BP) — James H. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has accepted a request of the state convention's executive board that he remain in office through 1982.

The board voted 111 to 3 to urge Landes to stay until age 70 following a motion by James Flammng, pastor of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, who cited the need for continued leadership in Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist goal to reach every person on earth with the Christian gospel by the year 2000.

Two years ago, the board voted unanimously to ask Landes to continue in the top administrative post two years past his 65th birthday. Landes, now 66, was elected on Jan. 1, 1974. He had planned to retire Dec. 31, 1979, before the extension.

Speaking in favor of the second extension, Texas Baptist President Milton Cunningham of Houston, said, "It would be extremely tragic for all of us if we should fail to realize that we are on the verge of the greatest possibilities in history and make a change at this time."

Raleigh, N. C. (RNS) — The Christian Action League announced here that it plans to challenge the constitutionality of legislation providing local option for the sale of liquor by the drink. The league failed in its efforts to block the state legislature from passing the measure in the 1978 session.

Mt. Moriah Gives To Village; Goes Far Beyond LM Goal

By Ronny Robinson

Mount Moriah Church, Lincoln County, on Dec. 24 experienced a real outpouring of God's Spirit. It all began on the first Wednesday in December when the church members committed themselves not only to the greatest goal (\$1900) they had ever sought for Lottie Moon, but at the same time committed themselves to a special love offering for the Baptist Children's Village.

On Sunday night, Dec. 17, Mrs. Annette Hitt of the Village staff came to Mt. Moriah and presented a touching account of life at the Village. At the end of the service everyone was given an opportunity to give an offering as a Christmas present for the village. A

love offering of \$841 was given.

Then on Dec. 24 during the evening service it was announced that God had blessed with not only our Lottie Moon goal, but \$850 beyond that goal — nearly the exact amount given to the Baptist Children's Village.

God has richly blessed Mt. Moriah Church. On Dec. 31 Mike Buckels, a young man licensed in this past year, preached his first morning message.

Our Sunday School average attendance runs about 140 to 145.

It thrills us all we realize that God is not just blessing for the sake of blessing but because He has a special purpose and plan, and we look toward that plan as we enter this new year.

(Note: Ronny Robinson, the writer

brought in the form of an offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, and to the Church Building Fund.

After the opening of the gifts, the candles were lighted on the large birthday cake and Robert Davis, minister of music, led the congregation in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

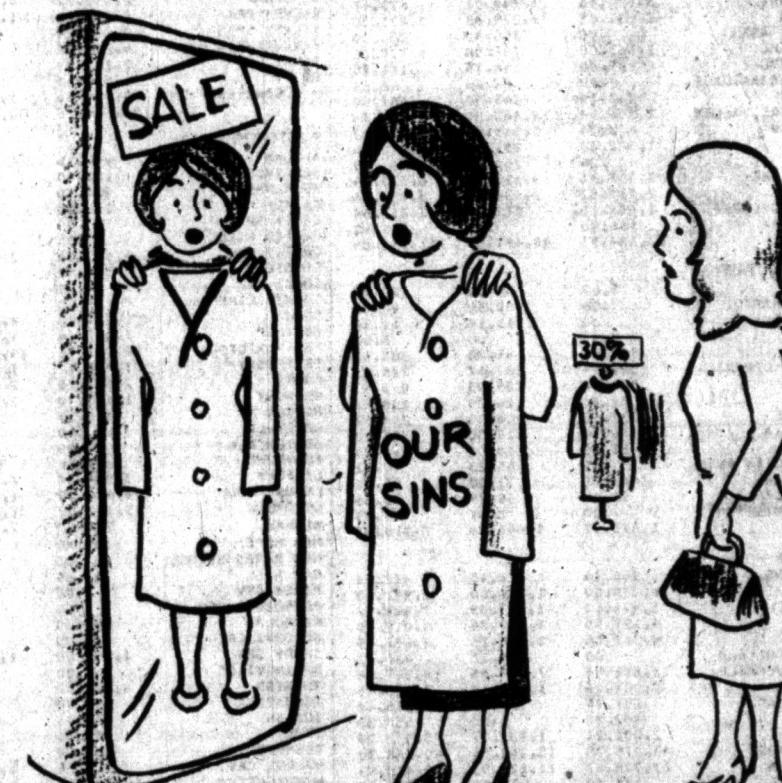
The Birthday Party for Jesus is an annual function of the Activities Committee of the church. Earl Clark is pastor.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING



of this article, is a bi-vocational pastor who is also a field supervisor for the State Department of Corrections.)

The problem for a Christian becomes that his sins appear less than those of others. The dishonesty or immorality that appears so shameless in other people seems only a human characteristic in oneself.



"Amazing how the same dress can look so normal on me and so grotesque on you!"

As a result, God's reputation suffers. When His people live openly (or secretly for that matter) in defiance of His way, outsiders will reject both God and His people.

It surprised King David to learn that God's enemies rejoiced and blasphemed God's name because of David's sins with Bathsheba (II Samuel 12:14). We ought to be humbled by the realization that God stakes His reputation on us! What a risk He takes!

THE LAW'S PURPOSE (3:9-10, 18-20)

No one has ever been saved by keeping the Law. That surely ought to be obvious. Yet, so many continue looking to their good deeds for salvation.

Not only can the Law not save; that was never intended as its purpose.

Anyone who believes God gave the Law to save man ought to study Exodus, chapter 20. After giving Moses the Ten Commandments, God directed him in building an acceptable altar. Surely, had God intended the Commandments as His way of salvation, He would not have immediately turned and provided a means for forgiveness through an altar.

The altar points to Calvary. That remains the only way of salvation God has ever had.

So, why was the Law given if not to save us? Paul names three reasons:

1) For instruction in living. Those who know it receive guidance in living righteously.

2) For accountability before God. The Law robs us of our excuses for failing to obey God. Jesus mentioned an intruder at the wedding feast in Matthew 22. When asked how he got in without a wedding garment, the man was speechless. He was without excuse.

3) For revealing sin. The only way one can know he breaks a law is to know what the law is. Consequently, God's Law has brought the knowledge of sin.

Remember that the knowledge and conviction of sin precede salvation.

A friend who returned from witnessing to his father in another state reported,

"He did not accept the Lord, but he did admit to being a sinner. Even that much is progress."

It is indeed progress. Now we pray that he will proceed to repentance and faith that his sin may be removed.

Life and Work Lesson

The Sins Of Good People

By Joe N. McKeever, First, Columbus

Romans 2 and 3

I would probably have written the New Testament differently. In John 3, for instance, instead of having Nicodemus confront Jesus, I would have chosen a much worse character.

After all, to illustrate the new birth, shouldn't we show a prostitute or a murderer being saved? But God in His wisdom demonstrated through Nicodemus the necessity of everyone being saved. And he used Judaism's best product to illustrate his point.

If a good man like Nicodemus needed to be saved, how much more the rest of us. For we "good people" sin against God, also.

Such is the point of our lesson.

A RESPECTABLE SIN: JUDGING (2:1)

Paul's readers — the Jews — found it easy to see the Gentiles' sins. After all, they were so glaring!

"But you too break God's Law just as they do!" he said. And he names the sin of judging.

Judging remains a contemporary problem to religious folk. It takes several forms, all of them more acceptable than some sins we could name.

Prejudice — condemning another before getting your facts; putdowns — judg-

ing someone harshly as a joke (in the Don Rickles style); gossip — "Pray for Mrs. Jones. Her husband has left her again. That good for nothing!"

Judging becomes inexcusable to one who knows himself likewise a sinner. Christians recognize that there are no acceptable sins, only neglected ones.

A SUBTLE SIN: HYPOCRISY (2:17-24)

Most of us agree with Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He once said he would preach the whole truth, even if he had not yet attained it in his personal life.

Think about that. I must not limit the proclamation of God's Word to that portion of it which I live up to. For this reason, a preacher or teacher will convict himself by his own message.

While this seems right, it brings with it a problem. Where does hypocrisy begin? It's only a short walk from there to the point where one appears dishonest for preaching what he does not practice.

So, it's a subtle process. Teaching others not to steal, we may be guilty of that very thing. Perhaps we rationalize — I've only taken some obsolete stuff from the plant or unneeded supplies from the office.

Or we might even admit our inconsistency. "I know I'm guilty of this sin, but I'm preaching to myself as well as the others."

Paul points out that this process may be repeated by so-called good people in many areas: adultery, idolatry and law-breaking.



Uniform Lesson

The Christian's Hope

By Larry Kennedy, First, Laurel

Romans 8:18-25; John 14:1-3

Without hope man finds it difficult to live. A hopeless person wrote:

To whom can I speak today?

The gentle man has perished.

The violent man has access to everybody.

To whom can I speak today?

The iniquity that smites the land has no end.

To whom can I speak today?

There are no righteous men.

The earth is surrendered to criminals.

Although those lines sound as if they were written by a man of this century, they were really written by a depressed Egyptian over 4000 years ago.

Does life seem hopeless to you? A young man climbed a bridge preparing to jump to his death. A policeman spotted him and rushed to his side. "It cannot be that bad. Think of all the good things in life," said the policeman. Seeing that the young man was unmoved by his pleas, the policeman said, "You tell me about all the bad things in life, and I will tell you about all the good things. If when we have

finished you still want to jump, I will not stop you." The boy listed all his problems and troubles. When he had finished, the boy and the policeman locked arms and both jumped into the river.

For the Christian, hope is not wishful thinking. It is the assurance of a meaningful life based upon the death and resurrection of Christ. The believer lives with a living God and that fact gives hope.

In the verses that we are studying, God gives us three reasons why we can live in a spirit of hope.

I. Suffering Will Be Conquered

We live in a spirit of hope because suffering will be conquered. Paul said, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18).

It is not easy to watch your loved ones suffer. Those who have lost friends and relatives to cancer and other diseases know how slow and painful death can be. The believers at Rome were troubled by these facts and were filled with despair; however, Paul reminds them as he would re-

mind us that suffering does not have the last word.

II. Sons Will Be Adopted

We live in a spirit of hope because God has prepared for us a new body. Paul said that we eagerly await for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (Rom. 8:23).

We normally associate the words adoption and redemption with the conversion experience; however, Paul always thought of salvation as having a future tense. To the apostle complete salvation would occur at death when the heavenly Father would clothe the believer with a new spiritual body. In the Corinthian letter Paul wrote,

"There is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body . . . for this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:44, 53).

III. Servants Will Be Awarded

We live in a spirit of hope because in the Father's world there are "many dwelling places" (John 14:2). As Jesus announced his own death and the suffering that the apostles would have to face, he saw in their eyes the deep hurt. Quickly he reminded them that

life was not limited to the planet earth. These men were his servants, and because of their faithfulness he had made plans to award them accordingly.

A young boy was dying, and he was fully aware that death was approaching. Looking up to his mother he said, "Mother, what is it like to die?"